

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking
March 2, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the authorities relating to official immunity in the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking (Public Law 107–108, 22 U.S.C. 2291–4), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared

by my Administration. This report includes matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
March 2, 2005.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for Michael Chertoff as Secretary of Homeland Security
March 3, 2005

I'm pleased to be here at the Department of Homeland Security with our new Secretary, Michael Chertoff. And I'm honored to share this moment with Meryl and their children.

This is the third time, not the first or second but the third time that I've asked Mike to serve our Nation. I keep asking him back for a reason: He is a talented public servant, with an outstanding record of achievement and a deep commitment to the cause of justice. As a Federal court of appeals judge, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Attorney, and Federal prosecutor, Mike has worked tirelessly to make our people safer and our Nation more secure. And now he will carry on that vital work as the Secretary of Homeland Security.

I appreciate Michael's in-laws for being here. Always a good thing, Mike—[*laughter*—to listen to your mother-in-law. [*Laughter*]

I thank Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, not only for being here to administer the oath of office but for serving our Nation with such class and such dignity. I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate, Senator Lautenberg and Senator Corzine from New Jersey, for being here,

and thank you for helping shepherd this good man's nomination through the Senate. I want to thank all the Members of the House of Representatives who are here, and there is a lot from New Jersey that have joined us. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here, and former members of my Cabinet. And I want to thank the employees of the Department of Homeland Security. You have got a great boss.

Since September the 11th, 2001, we have taken unprecedented steps to protect the American people. We have assembled a strong coalition of nations to secure our respective countries. We have closed down terrorists' networks and chased down their leaders in mountains and deserts around the world. We've removed two dangerous regimes that harbored terrorists and threatened the peace. We convinced a third to voluntarily abandon its nuclear and chemical weapons programs. We have broken up the world's most dangerous nuclear trading network and busted up terrorist cells around the globe.

We have been relentless and we will continue to be relentless in our mission to secure the people of this country. From